DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 072 877 RC 006 729

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TITLE Changing Characteristics of the West Virginia Population: 1940-1970.
PUB DATE 7 Feb 73
NOTE 22p.; Paper presented at the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers meeting, February 4-7, 1973, Atlanta, Georgia

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS *Comparative Statistics; Demography; Education; Industry; Migration; Occupations; *Population Trends; *Residential Patterns; *Rural Urban Differences; Sex (Characteristics); *Tables (Data)
IDENTIFIERS *West Virginia

ABSTRACT

West Virginia's population history from 1940 to 1970 was traced in this paper. Data were collected to illustrate (1) population size, distribution, and composition for West Virginia and its rural and urban subunits and (2) the changing fertility pattern which occurred during this period. Whenever possible, comparisons between West Virginia population trends and those for the United States and the rest of the South Atlantic Division were made. The 1940, 1950, 1960, and 1970 U. S. Censuses of Population, U. S. Department of Commerce, were used for the data collection. Selected data were pursued and organized into tables and occasionally into graphs to illustrate structural shifts with respect to age, sex, residence, schooling, occupation, industry, and fertility. Since West Virginia has had a relatively small nonwhite population in recent decades, racial comparisons were excluded from this paper. It was noted that West Virginia generally appears to be converging with the Division and Nation in many respects, although its discordant figures concerning urbanization, education, and mining still stand out as "glaring" contrasts. (NQ)

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CHANGING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA POPULATION: 1940-1970

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Paper presented in the Rural Sociology Section of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers meeting, February 4-7, 1973, at Atlanta, Georgia.

RC006729

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INTRODUCTION

Efforts concerning the identification, description, and occasionally, the explanation of selected population trends experienced by stipulated aggregates are abundant in demographic literature. Such studies usually are intended either to add to the existing stock of historical data with respect to experience at any given organizational level, or are pursued in an effort toward enlightenment about unique demographic patterns, or are preliminary steps for projection or prediction. Often, all of these motivations are present. Whatever the intention may be in any demographic trend research, almost invariably one will find diverse population patterns drawn together in a relatively succinct and integrated statement.

West Virginia qualifies as a worthwhile locus for demographic trend research in several respects. Perhaps foremost among these reasons is that there is a dearth of integrated trend information for the West Virginia population. Moreover, West Virginia holds the distinction of being the only state east of the Mississippi River to have lost population between 1950 and 1970--owing almost exclusively to net out-migration. Also significant is the lack of industrial-occupational diversity of West Virginia due to the monolithic predominance of coal (and lumber) mining. Waxings and wanings of demand for coal extraction have figured heavily in the differential migration rates that have marked the State's population loss.

The present investigation was motivated by West Virginia's unique, interesting and relatively unexplored population history in recent decades. An attempt has been extended to embrace most of the characteristics of demographic concern into a meaningful exposition for the State. More specifically, data have been collected for 1940, 1950, 1960, and 1970 to illustrate: (i) population size, distribution and composition for West Virginia and its rural and urban subunits during this period; and, (ii) the changing fertility pattern that occurred between 1940 and 1970.

DATA COLLECTION

Data for the present study were taken from the 1940, 1950, 1960, and 1970 U. S. Censuses of Population, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Whenever available information permitted, data were compiled to reflect differences with respect to total, urban and rural populations for the United States, the South Atlantic Division, and West Virginia. An attempt was made to discern

significant change in the characteristics of the West Virginia population and to compare these changes with those of the South Atlantic Division and the United States.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The following analysis is intended to provide an overview of the most important benchmarks of West Virginia's recent population changes. Selected data were pursued and organized into tables and occasionally into graphs to illustrate structural shifts with respect to age, sex, residence, schooling, occupation, industry, and fertility. While race is not regarded as unimportant, West Virginia has had a relatively small nonwhite population in recent decades. This being so, racial comparisons were excluded in an effort toward brevity of exposition, concentrating on what are thought to be more important characteristics of West Virginia: 1940-1970.

Size and Distribution

A very brief picture of the size of West Virginia's population is presented in Table I with additional indication of the manner in which the population was distributed between its rural and urban components. Perhaps the most conspicuous characteristic which becomes visible when the West Virginia trend is compared with the Division and the United States is that the State has endured a severe loss of population between 1950 and 1970, while the other two areas have experienced appreciable gains. In fact, the South Atlantic Division has outstripped the United States in population growth over each of the 1940-1970 census recordings. This casts West Virginia into an even more aberrant mold, compared with the Division of which it is a member state.

Also illustrated is extent to which the State has been lagging behind concerning urbanization. Both West Virginia and the United States showed losses of rural population between 1940 and 1970. However, West Virginia's rural losses were much heavier and its urban gain in 1960 was only a fraction of the United States counterpart. Moreover, the State actually experienced a loss of urban population in 1970, compared with a significant urban gain for the United States. The urban-rural disparity is even more pronounced when the State is compared with the South Atlantic Division. Here, one may note the heavy urbanization experienced by the Division, particularly in 1950 and 1960. Table Ia and Figure I are provided to further emphasize these rates of urbanization. The convergence of the Division towards the national rural-urban picture is noteworthy, as is the fact that West Virginia was almost exactly as urbanized in 1970 as the Division was in 1940.

TABLE I

TOTAL, URBAN, AND RURAL POPULATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CENSUS DIVISION, AND WEST VIRGINIA: 1940-1970

AREA	1940	1950	1960	1970
United States:				
Total	131,669,275 (7.2)*	151,325,798 (14.9)	179,323,175 (18.5)	203,184,772 (13.3)
Urban	74,423,702 (7.9)	96,846,817 (30.1)	125,268,750 (29.3)	149,280,769 (19.2)
Rural	57,245,573 (6.4)	54,478,981 (-4.8)	54,054,425 (-0.8)	53,884,804 (-0.3)
South Atlantic Census Division:				
Total	17,823,151 (12.8)	21,182,335 (18.8)	25,971,732 (22.6)	30,671,337 (18.1)
Urban	6,921,726 (21.4)	10,391,163 (50.1)	14,851,516 (42.9)	19,524,948 (31.5)
Rural	10,901,425 (7.9)	10,791,172 (-1.0)	11,120,216 (3.0)	11,146,389 (0.2)
West Virginia:				
Total	1,901,974 (10.2)	2,005,552 (-7.2)	1,860,421 (-7.2)	1,744,237 (-6.2)
Urban	534,292 (8.7)	694,487 (29.9)	711,101 (2.4)	679,491 (-4.4)
Rural	1,367,682 (10.8)	1,311,065 (-4.1)	1,149,320 (-12.3)	1,064,746 (-7.4)

*Percent change from previous census
Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census of Population

TABLE Ia

PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION URBAN AND RURAL, FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CENSUS DIVISION, AND WEST VIRGINIA: 1940-1970

Area	1940	1950	1960	1970
United States:				
Urban	56.5	64.0	69.9	73.5
Rural	43.5	36.0	30.1	26.5
South Atlantic Census Division:				
Urban	38.8	49.1	57.2	63.7
Rural	61.2	50.9	42.8	36.3
West Virginia:				
Urban	28.1	34.6	38.2	39.0
Rural	71.9	65.4	61.8	61.0

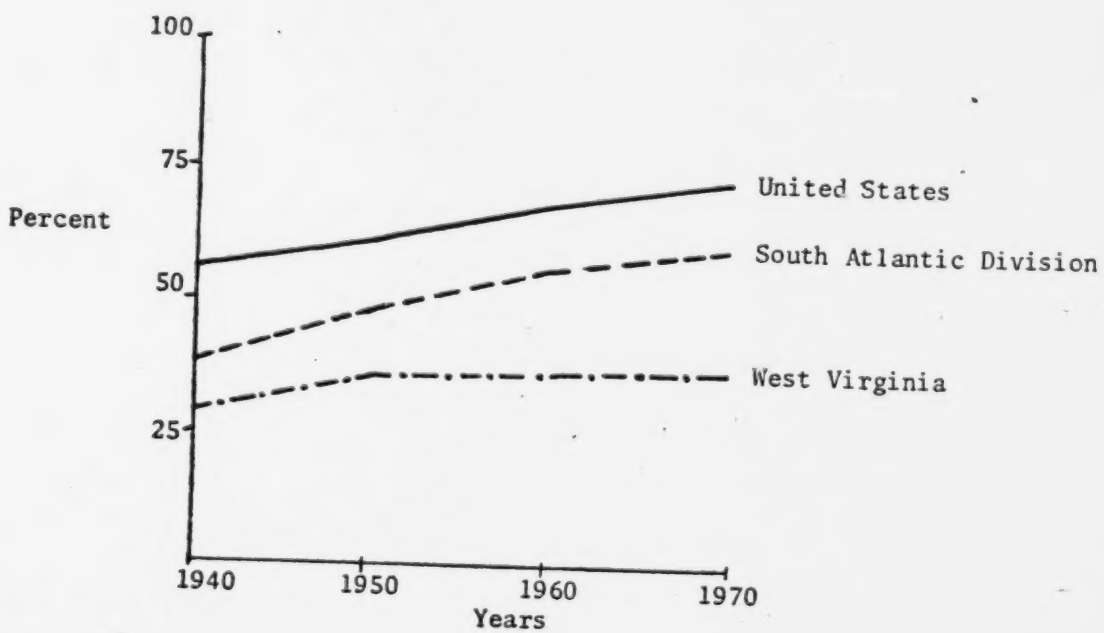


FIGURE I
PERCENT OF POPULATION URBAN

Composition: Age and Sex

The percent distribution by age and sex is provided in Table II for West Virginia's population, 1940-1970, and for the United States in 1970. In an effort to afford greater readability, population pyramids are presented to illustrate a comparison of the State between 1940 and in 1970, and a comparison between West Virginia: 1970 and the United States: 1970. These pyramids are portrayed in Figure IIa and Figure IIb, respectively.

Investigation of this information clearly reveals that the age composition of West Virginia has shifted toward a fairly close approximation with the United States by 1970. It is interesting to note that West Virginia's pyramid for 1940 illustrates the triangular shape which one confronts when viewing the population pyramid of a less developed area. Moreover, the depression-years "pinch" in the 0-4 and 5-9 age categories stand out sharply in this pyramid just as this contraction appears among the 40-44 and 45-49 age categories in 1970 for both the State and the United States. Additionally, the 1970 pyramids in Figure IIb readily portray the declining birth rates which occurred during the 1960's in West Virginia and in the rest of the United States.

It is thought that the convergence of the State with the United States was accountable primarily to out-migration. It is known that out-migration from the state was differentially greater among younger adults, and this would account for the growth in the percent of the total population among older age groups (which even exceeded the percent of total population distributed among the older age groups in the United States in 1970).

The percent of population under 15 years of age and 65 years of age and older is presented in Table IIa, comparing West Virginia with the United States for 1940, 1950, 1960, and 1970. This information also has been assembled into Figure III to distinguish the direction of change with greater clarity.

At least three characteristics are immediately noticeable. One of these is that there has been a general convergence between West Virginia and the United States, between 1940 and 1970, with respect to the percent of their respective populations under 15 years of age. By comparison, their respective populations of aged persons (65 years of age and older) have been much more similar over this thirty year period.

Another characteristic which seems noteworthy, is that the trends of these two areas with respect to each of the two age categories under consideration have crossed each other. This means that West Virginia has moved from its initial position of a comparatively smaller percent of its population in the older dependent age range (65+) to an ultimate position of more dependent persons in its population than the United States has.

Finally, one may note that, since 1960, both the State and the Nation have experienced a decrease in percentage of total population under 15 years of age, and an increase in percentage of total population 65 years of age and older.

TABLE II

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND SEX FOR WEST VIRGINIA: 1940-1970, AND FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1970

Age	West Virginia												United States		
	1940			1950			1960			1970			1970		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
75+	1.5	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.1	2.1	3.3	3.2	3.4	4.2	3.7	4.7	3.8	3.0	4.5
70-74	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.6	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.8	3.2	2.7	2.3	3.0
65-69	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.9	3.6	4.1	3.2	3.2	3.7
60-64	2.9	3.0	2.7	3.3	3.4	3.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.9	4.7	5.0	4.2	4.1	4.4
55-59	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	5.5	5.5	5.6	4.9	4.8	5.0
50-54	4.3	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.7	4.5	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.9	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.4	5.5
45-49	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.3	5.3	5.3	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.0	5.9	6.0
40-44	5.7	5.8	5.5	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.0	5.9	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.9
35-39	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.8	5.1	4.9	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.5
30-34	7.2	7.1	7.3	7.1	6.9	7.3	6.3	6.0	6.5	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.6	5.7	5.6
25-29	8.2	8.1	8.4	7.9	7.7	8.1	5.4	5.1	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.6	6.6	6.7	6.6
20-24	9.1	8.8	9.4	8.0	7.6	8.3	5.7	5.4	5.9	7.4	7.1	7.6	8.1	8.0	8.1
15-19	10.8	10.6	11.0	8.3	8.0	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.3	9.9	10.3	9.5	9.4	9.7	9.0
10-14	10.8	10.7	10.9	9.5	9.7	9.4	10.9	11.2	10.5	10.1	10.7	9.6	10.2	10.7	9.8
5- 9	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.2	10.4	10.1	10.7	11.1	10.4	9.1	9.6	8.6	9.8	10.3	9.4
0- 4	10.3	10.3	10.4	12.0	12.2	11.8	10.6	10.9	10.2	7.9	8.4	7.5	8.4	8.8	8.1

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census of Population

FIGURE IIa
Percent distribution by age for the West Virginia Population: 1940 and 1970

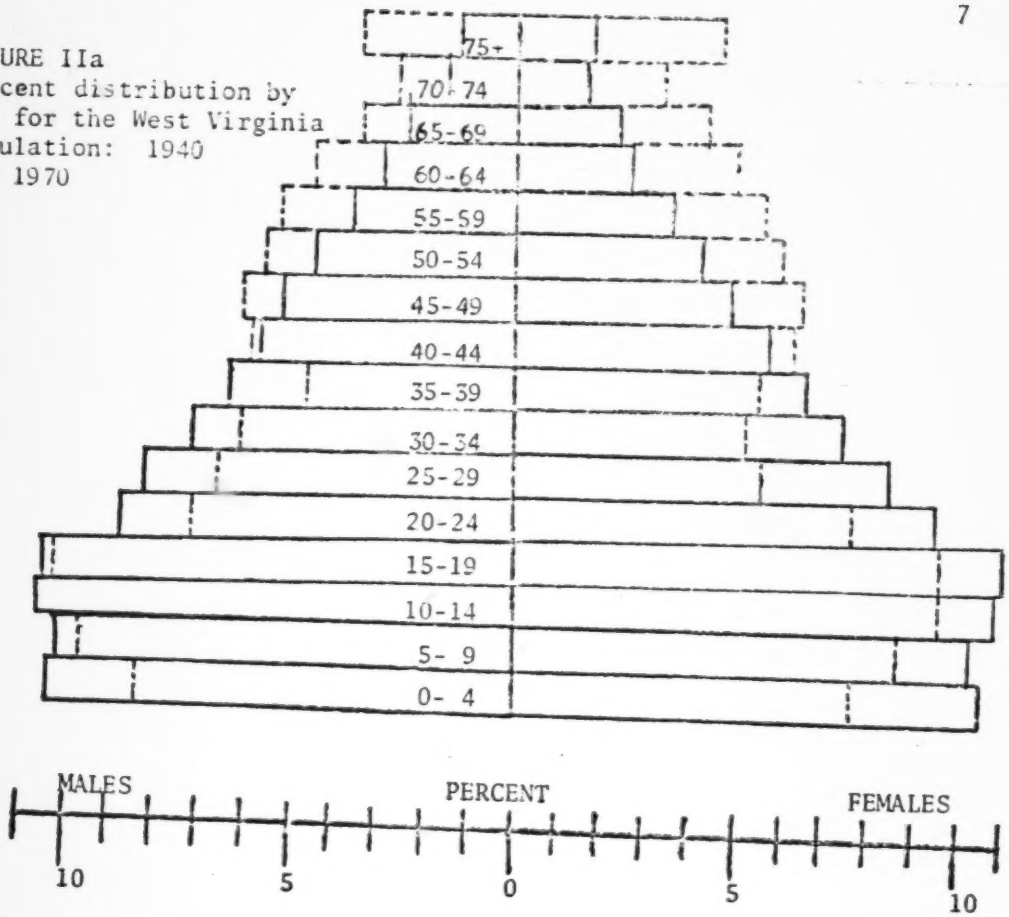
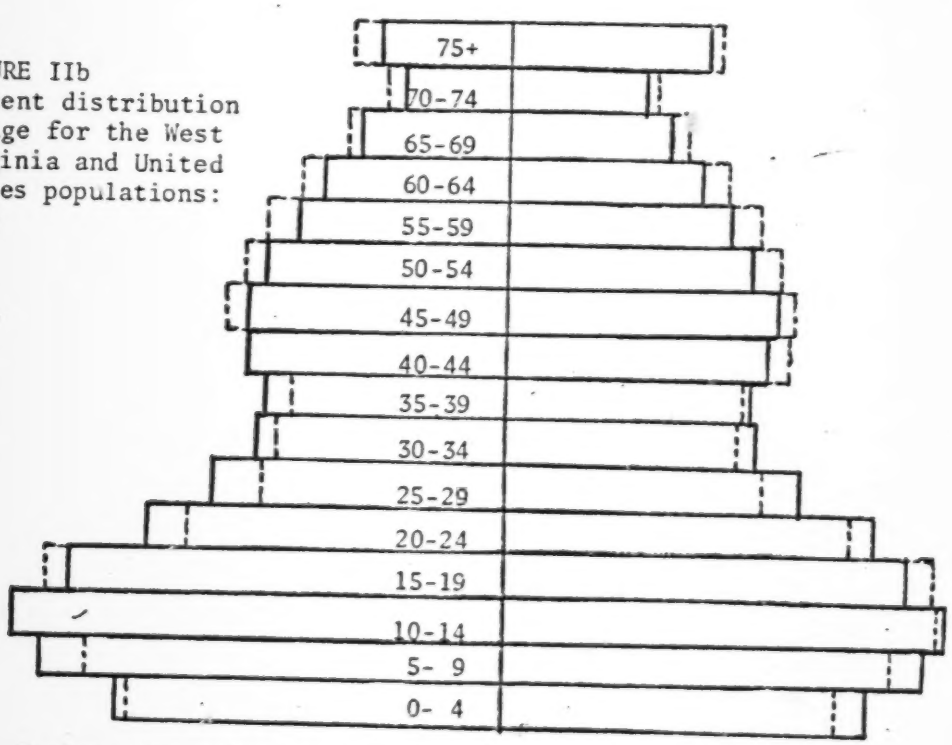


FIGURE IIb
Percent distribution by age for the West Virginia and United States populations: 1970



KEY: Broken line refers to the West Virginia population in 1970.

TABLE IIa

PERCENT OF POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE AND 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER FOR THE UNITED STATES AND WEST VIRGINIA: 1940-1970

Area	Percent under 15 years of age				Percent 65 years of age and older			
	1940	1950	1960	1970	1940	1950	1960	1970
United States	25.0	26.9	31.1	28.4	6.9	8.2	9.0	9.7
West Virginia	31.2	31.7	32.2	27.1	5.3	6.8	9.3	11.1

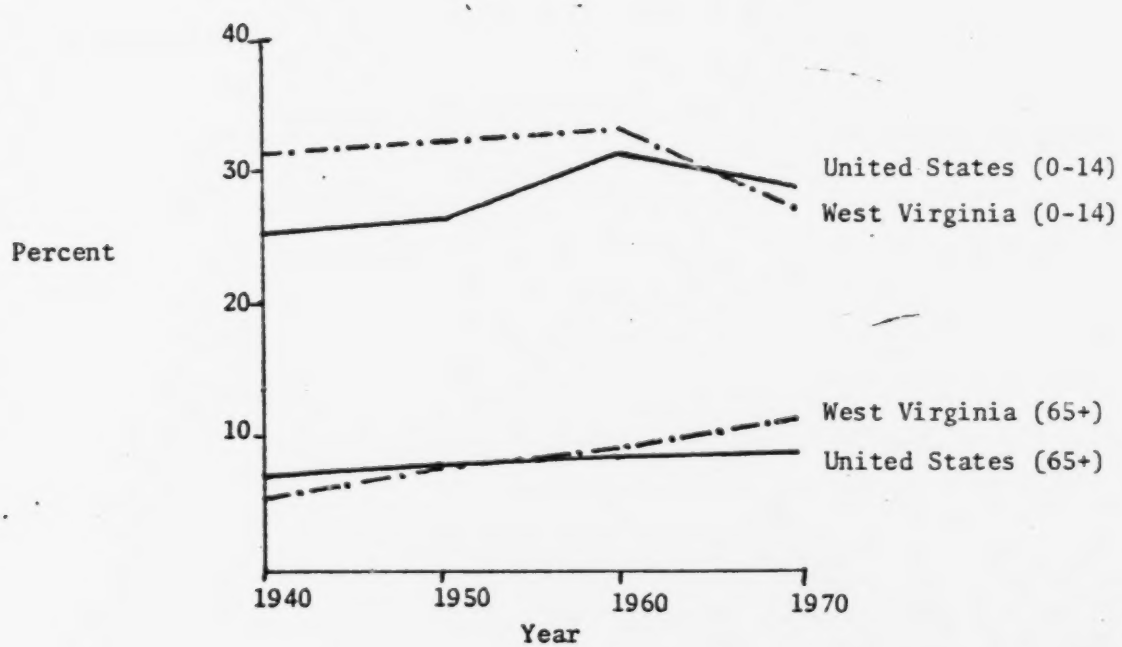


FIGURE III
PERCENT OF POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE AND 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

Differences in the age and sex structure of a given population may be seen by comparing rural and urban residence patterns among its inhabitants. In an effort to obtain an impression of these trends for the areas in question, median ages by sex and rural-urban residence for West Virginia, the South Atlantic Division, and the United States: 1940-1970, are presented in Table III, and in Figure IV below.

The median age for females is higher in nearly every case, irrespective of year, area, or rural or urban residence. Additionally, Figure IV vividly illustrates that the median age was higher among rural populations, from 1940 to 1970 in both the State and the Nation, although sizable convergence between the rural and urban medians has been experienced by both areas. As was the situation concerning the crossing trends with respect to 0-15 and 65+ age groups, West Virginia and United States age medians also cross paths. This is to be expected, and owes to the same explanation (heavy out-migration of young adults in West Virginia).

The final analysis with respect to age and sex composition concerns the sex ratio, with comparisons between urban and rural residence in West Virginia, the South Atlantic Division, and the United States. This data is portrayed in Table IV, and Figure V.

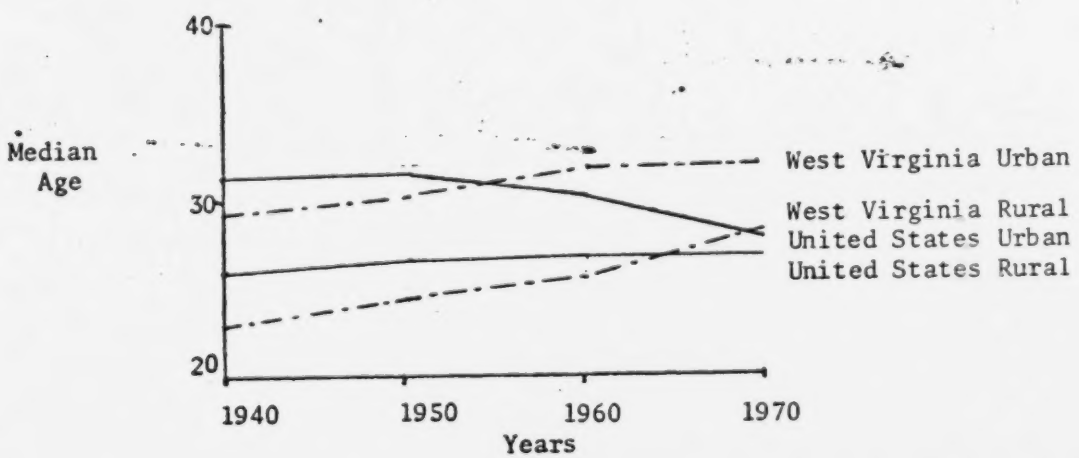


FIGURE IV
MEDIAN AGE BY RURAL AND URBAN RESIDENCE
FOR THE UNITED STATES AND WEST VIRGINIA

TABLE III

MEDIAN AGE BY SEX AND RURAL-URBAN RESIDENCE FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CENSUS DIVISION AND WEST VIRGINIA: 1940-1970

Area and Sex	1940 Total	1940 Rural	1940 Urban	1950 Total	1950 Rural	1950 Urban	1960 Total	1960 Rural	1960 Urban	1970 Total	1970 Rural	1970 Urban
United States:												
Total	29.0	(26.1)*	31.0	30.2	(27.1)	31.6	29.5	27.3	30.4	28.1	27.9	28.1
Males	29.1	(26.4)	31.0	29.9	(27.1)	31.2	28.7	26.7	29.4	26.8	27.2	26.7
Females	29.0	(25.6)	31.1	30.5	(27.1)	32.0	30.3	27.9	31.2	29.3	28.7	29.5
South Atlantic Census Division:												
Total	25.5	(23.0)	29.1	27.3	(23.8)	29.9	27.5	24.8	29.4	27.7	27.1	28.0
Males	25.3	(23.1)	28.9	26.8	- -**	- -	26.4	- -	- -	26.3	26.1	26.4
Females	25.6	(22.8)	29.3	27.7	- -	- -	28.6	- -	- -	29.1	28.0	29.7
West Virginia:												
Total	24.3	(22.4)	29.1	26.3	23.8	30.2	28.5	25.9	31.9	30.0	28.7	32.3
Males	24.7	(22.5)	29.1	26.4	24.1	30.0	27.7	25.4	30.9	28.5	27.8	29.6
Females	24.0	(21.9)	28.8	26.1	23.4	30.3	29.2	26.4	32.7	31.5	29.5	34.8

*Average of rural farm and rural non-farm medians
** Not available
Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census of Population.

TABLE IV

SEX RATIO FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CENSUS DIVISION, AND WEST VIRGINIA: 1940-1970

Area	1940	1950	1960	1970
United States:				
Total	100.7	98.7	97.1	94.8
Urban	95.5	94.5	94.1	93.0
Rural	107.8	106.2	104.3	100.1
South Atlantic Census Division:				
Total	99.1	98.2	96.7	95.0
Urban	91.7	92.3	92.7	93.1
Rural	104.0	104.2	103.1	99.3
West Virginia:				
Total	103.8	100.7	96.8	93.9
Urban	94.6	93.6	90.7	88.1
Rural	107.5	104.7	100.8	97.8

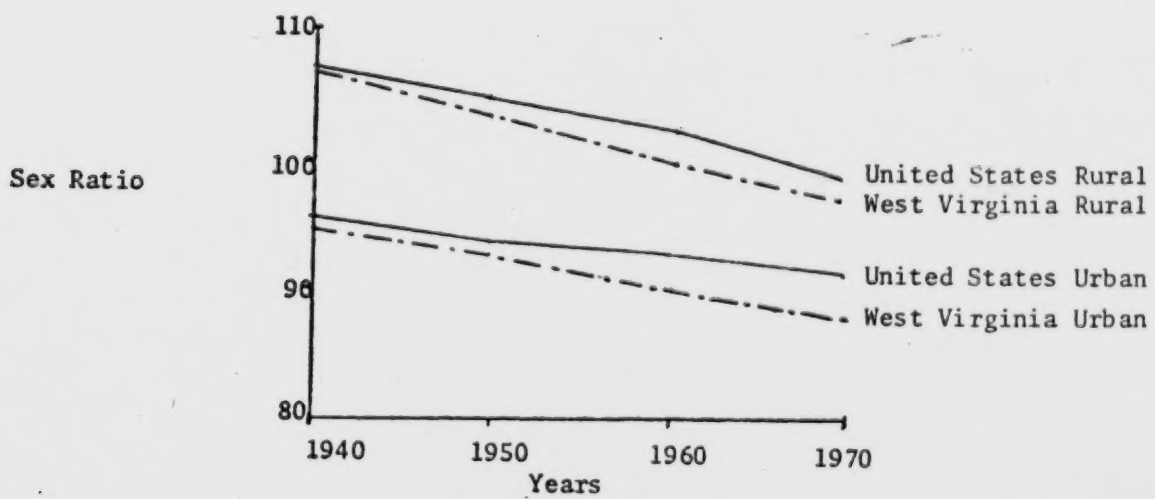


FIGURE V
SEX RATIO BY RURAL AND URBAN RESIDENCE
FOR THE UNITED STATES AND WEST VIRGINIA

The data compiled is rather uninformative. One may note that all three areas have experienced declining sex ratios among both urban and rural residents, and also may see that the West Virginia sex ratios are consistently lower than those of the United States. Perhaps this is accounted for by heavier out-migration from West Virginia by males. However, the differences in the sex ratio figures between the areas are slight with no stark contrast to invite efforts at explanation.

Composition: Marital Status and Education

Information with respect to marital status is illustrated in Table V. Included is a percent distribution of those males and females who were either single, married, widowed, or divorced in West Virginia, the South Atlantic Division, and the United States in 1940, 1950, 1960 and 1970. Observing these percentage figures, one is struck with the remarkable similarity between marital status categories when males and females in West Virginia are compared with their counterparts in the South Atlantic Division and the United States. The only aberrations of any note were the West Virginia females who were single or widowed in 1940, or widowed in 1970. Even here, however, the differences from their counterparts were not profound. Perhaps one might argue that the overall similarity itself is extraordinary, especially when West Virginia was undergoing a change in population opposite to that of the Division and the United States.

The differences that are revealed when median years of school completed for the population 25 years of age and older in West Virginia, the South Atlantic Division, and the United States are compared, are as remarkable as the similarities found in marital status. Evidence exposing this is easily seen by reference to Table VI and Figure VI. Females consistently had higher median years of school completed than males in each area and year, and all three areas experienced steady increases in the median years of school completed by their respective populations. More importantly, however, is the fact that the United States consistently has shown medians nearly a full year higher than the South Atlantic Division. And, most importantly, while West Virginia had the same total median as the Division in 1940, the State fell significantly below the Division by 1970. It also may be informative to note that the total, male, and female medians in West Virginia for 1970 were almost exactly the same as the United States counterpart medians were in 1960, ten years earlier.

TABLE V

MARITAL STATUS BY PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, AND DIVORCED FOR MALES AND FEMALES IN THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CENSUS DIVISION AND WEST VIRGINIA: 1940-1970

Area and Sex	1940				1950				1960				1970			
	S[1]	M[2]	W[3]	D[4]	S	M	W	D	S	M	W	D	S	M	W	D
United States:																
Males	33.2	61.2	4.3	- -*	26.2	67.6	6.1(W+D)		25.1	69.1	3.6	2.1	28.6	65.8	2.9	2.7
Females	25.8	61.0	11.5	- -	20.1	65.7	14.2(W+D)		19.1	65.9	12.2	2.8	22.4	61.3	12.4	3.9
South Atlantic Census Division:																
Males	33.5	61.8	3.9	- -	27.5	67.4	5.1(W+D)		26.1	68.7	3.3	1.8	28.3	66.4	2.8	2.5
Females	25.8	60.7	12.1	- -	20.4	65.6	14.0(W+D)		19.2	65.9	12.4	2.5	21.4	62.2	12.8	3.6
West Virginia:																
Males	33.9	59.6	3.6	0.9	27.5	67.2	3.7	1.9	26.0	68.2	3.8	2.0	27.5	66.6	3.4	2.5
Females	28.1	61.5	9.2	1.3	20.7	66.8	10.2	2.2	20.0	65.1	12.3	2.6	21.3	61.3	14.1	3.3

*Not available.
Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census of Population.
[1]Single
[2]Married
[3]Widowed
[4]Divorced

TABLE VI

MEDIAN YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER IN THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CENSUS DIVISION AND WEST VIRGINIA FROM 1940 TO 1970 FOR MALES, FEMALES AND THE TOTAL POPULATION

Area and Sex	1940	1950	1960	1970
United States:				
Total	8.4	9.3	10.6	12.1
Males	8.3	9.0	10.3	12.1
Females	8.5	9.6	10.7	12.1
South Atlantic Census Division:				
Total	7.8	8.6	9.8	11.4
Males	7.5	8.3	9.3	11.3
Females	8.0	8.8	10.2	11.5
West Virginia:				
Total	7.8	8.5	8.8	10.6
Males	7.7	8.4	8.7	10.3
Females	8.0	8.6	8.9	10.8

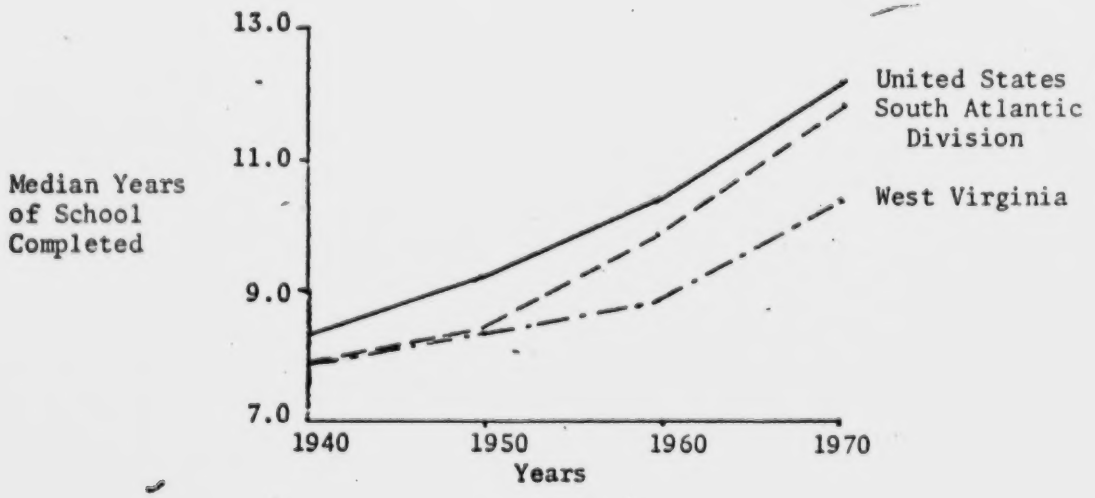


FIGURE VI
MEDIAN YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CENSUS DIVISION, AND WEST VIRGINIA

Composition: Occupation and Industry

Table VII depicts the percent distribution of employed persons by occupation, for the United States, the South Atlantic Division, and West Virginia: 1950-1970. Investigating these occupational categories individually, it may be seen that while in all areas there has been a growth in percent of professional, technical and kindred workers, West Virginia has failed to catch up to the Division and Nation by 1970.

However, among proprietors, managers, and nonfarm officials a convergence has occurred. The national percentage figures have declined, while the State and the Division have increased. By 1970, the Division and the Nation revealed equal percentages in this category, while the West Virginia percentage figure remained slightly lower.

The farmer and farm managers category of workers has declined very significantly in all three areas, with the State consistently demonstrating the lowest percentage of employed persons in these occupations. Conversely, clerical, sales, and kindred workers have scored percentage gains in each area, with West Virginia once again positioned at the bottom during each year.

The percentage of craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers has been rather stable for the United States: 1940-1970, while these occupations have increased slightly in the Division and to a greater extent in West Virginia over this period of time. Operatives and kindred workers have declined in each area, and the decline has been significantly greater in West Virginia. This suggests a measure of convergence for the State towards the percentage situations in the Division and the United States.

Farm foremen, laborers, and unpaid family workers demonstrated the same pattern of decline in each area that farmers and farm managers experienced for 1940-1970. Once again, West Virginia consistently presented the lowest percentage figures.

While West Virginia nonfarm laborers failed to demonstrate the percentage declines which occurred in the Division and in the Nation, the most significant extent of convergence with these other two areas did transpire in the service workers occupational category. Whereas the State held a significantly smaller percentage of its workers in this category in 1940, by 1970 the percent of service workers was almost exactly the same in West Virginia, the South Atlantic Division, and the United States. In summary, West Virginia exhibited a more blue collar labor force than the Division or the United States but some convergence with the occupational percent distributions of these other two areas seems apparent.

TABLE VII

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CENSUS DIVISION, AND WEST VIRGINIA: 1950-1970*

(Employed Persons: 14 years old and over for 1950 and 1960 and 16 years old and older for 1970)

Occupation	1950			1960			1970		
	U.S.	S.A.D.	W.V.	U.S.	S.A.D.	W.V.	U.S.	S.A.D.	W.V.
Professional, Technical and Kindred Workers	8.7	7.6	7.3	11.2	10.2	10.3	14.8	14.0	12.5
Proprietors, Managers, and Officials (Except Farm)	8.9	7.8	7.4	8.4	8.2	7.7	8.3	8.3	7.9
Farmers and Farm Managers	7.6	9.2	5.9	3.9	3.8	2.5	1.9	1.4	0.9
Clerical, Sales and Kindred Workers	19.3	16.7	14.6	21.6	19.7	18.4	25.1	24.0	20.1
Craftsmen, Foremen, and Kindred Workers	13.8	12.1	14.4	13.5	12.7	15.0	13.9	14.2	17.4
Operatives and Kindred Workers	19.8	20.2	31.0	18.4	19.0	23.9	17.6	18.4	21.6
Farm Foremen, Laborers, and Unpaid Family Workers	4.2	6.8	3.7	2.2	3.4	1.6	1.2	1.7	0.7
Non-farm Laborers	6.1	7.0	6.4	4.8	5.6	6.2	4.5	5.0	6.2
Service Workers	10.1	11.3	7.7	11.1	12.5	10.2	12.8	12.9	12.8
Occupation Not Reported	1.3	1.4	1.5	4.9	5.0	4.2	- -	- -	- -

* Data for 1940 occupational groups were available only by sex. Total percent distribution of employed persons was not presented.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census of Population.

The percent distribution by major industry for employed persons that is provided in Table VIII reveals some interesting facts. For example, although the construction industry maintained a stable percentage of workers in the United States between 1950 and 1970, it increased its share in both the South Atlantic Division and in West Virginia during this time. A similar development transpired with respect to wholesale and retail trade. Manufacturing also followed a similar pattern between 1950 and 1960, but the percent of employed persons in manufacturing in the Division and in the State stabilized between 1960-1970.

The public administration, services (business, personal, entertainment and professional) and finance, insurance and real estate industrial categories all experienced steady percentage growth from 1950 to 1970 in the State, the Division, and the Nation. Concerning each of the categories, West Virginia consistently held the lowest percentage figures during each year.

Figure VII is presented so that the percent distributions for persons employed in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and in mining may be more sharply delineated. The substantial declines which occurred in all three areas between 1950 and 1970 with respect to agriculture, forestry and fisheries are easily seen. It is noteworthy that West Virginia held the lowest percentage of persons employed in this category in 1950, 1960, and 1970.

The most extraordinary difference observable between the three areas concerns the mining industry. Figure VII vividly illustrates the contrast between West Virginia, where the mining percentage is high, and the Division and the Nation where persons employed in mining constitute almost negligible percents. West Virginia's trend between 1950 and 1970 was one of convergence with the Division and the Nation, but in 1970 the differences still were extreme.

TABLE VIII

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP FOR EMPLOYED PERSONS FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CENSUS DIVISION, AND WEST VIRGINIA: 1950-1970*

(Employed Persons: 14 years old and older for 1950 and 1960 and 16 years old and older for 1970)

Industry	1950			1960			1970		
	U.S.	S.A.D.	W.V.	U.S.	S.A.D.	W.V.	U.S.	S.A.D.	W.V.
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	12.5	16.7	9.8	6.7	8.0	4.4	3.7	3.8	2.1
Mining	1.7	2.4	21.4	1.0	1.1	11.0	0.8	0.8	8.8
Construction	6.1	6.6	5.1	5.9	6.8	5.4	6.0	7.2	7.3
Manufacturing	25.9	21.7	18.9	27.1	23.7	23.3	25.9	24.1	23.2
Transportation, Communication and other public utilities	7.8	6.7	8.5	6.9	6.3	8.8	6.7	6.6	7.9
Wholesale and Retail trade	18.8	16.9	15.5	18.2	17.7	18.0	20.0	19.3	19.1
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	3.4	2.6	1.6	4.2	3.7	2.3	5.0	4.5	2.7
Services: Business, Personal, Entertainment and Professional	18.0	18.7	15.0	21.0	21.9	19.9	26.1	27.0	24.7
Public Administration	4.4	6.1	2.6	5.0	6.8	3.5	5.5	7.6	4.1
Industry not reported	1.5	1.5	1.6	4.0	4.0	3.2	- -	- -	- -

*Data for 1940 major industry groups were available only by sex and state. Total percent of major industry groups was not presented.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census of Population.

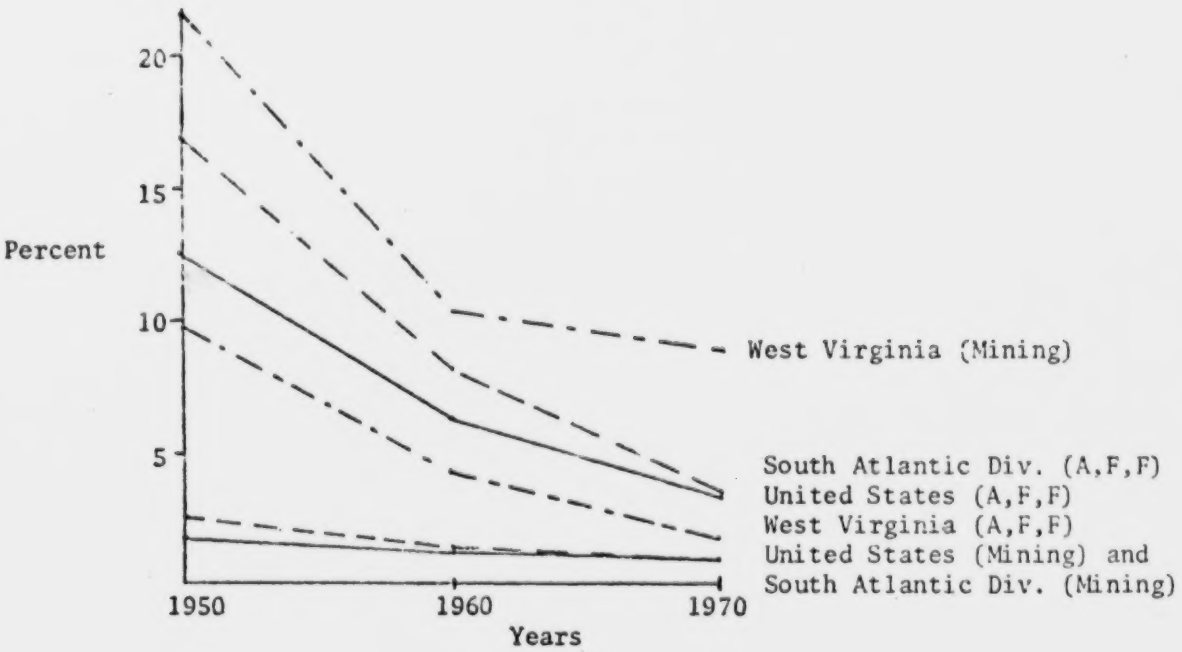


FIGURE VII
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION FOR EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (A,F,F) AND MINING FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, AND WEST VIRGINIA

Fertility

The changing fertility patterns for the United States and West Virginia: 1940-1970 are presented in Table IX. It is evident that the number of children even born per 1,000 women (15-44) and child-woman ratio for the rural population are remarkably higher than the urban population in the United States and West Virginia. However, the differences in the number of children ever born and the child-woman ratio for urban and rural populations of West Virginia are more pronounced than those of the United States.

A further glance at Table IX indicates that the number of children ever born per 1,000 women increased between 1950 and 1970 for the United States and West Virginia and their urban and rural components, with one exception for the State of West Virginia (children ever born per 1,000 women for rural population decreased between 1950 and 1960). The child-woman ratio for the United States and West Virginia declined sharply between 1960 and 1970.

TABLE IX

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORN AND CHILD-WOMAN RATIO FOR THE UNITED STATES AND WEST VIRGINIA: 1940-1970

Area	Children Ever Born Per 1,000 Women (35-44)				Child-Woman Ratio		
	1940*	1950	1960	1970	1950	1960	1970
United States:							
Total	2,262	2,122	2,468	2,956	450	536	369
Urban	1,792	1,791	2,269	2,840	406	517	357
Rural	2,994	2,813	3,000	3,291	543	567	387
West Virginia:							
Total	- -	2,714	2,813	3,030	- -	492	353
Urban	- -	1,845	2,221	2,647	- -	451	300
Rural	- -	3,335	3,236	3,282	- -	519	335

*Data available for "native white women" only.
- - Data for children ever born: 1940 and child-woman ratio: 1950 are not available for West Virginia.
Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census of Population.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

An attempt has been made in this paper to trace West Virginia's population history during the thirty year period from 1940 to 1970. Efforts were concentrated upon those characteristics thought to be the most salient benchmarks of the State's structural change, and, where possible, comparisons were made with the United States and with the South Atlantic Division, of which West Virginia is a member state.

It was noted that the State lost population between 1940 and 1970, while the Division and Nation scored sizable gains, and furthermore, that West Virginia lags far behind with respect to urbanization. There has been a convergence of West Virginia's percent distribution by age toward the pyramid form exhibited by the United States in 1970. It is thought that out-migration played a dominant role in reshaping the State's percent distribution by age.

Although the State and the Nation both increased their percentages of persons 65 years of age and older and decreased (since 1960) their respective percentages of persons under 15 years of age, West Virginia has traded places with the United States between 1940 and 1970, ending the period with a higher percentage of older residents. State, Division, and National females exhibited higher median ages, as did rural inhabitants in these areas. The rural-urban differences converged in the State and Nation, but the State demonstrated higher medians for both.

Sex ratios and marital status were remarkably similar for West Virginia, the South Atlantic Division, and the United States between 1940 and 1970. However, when median years of school completed for the population 25 years of age and older were compiled, West Virginia revealed itself to be significantly lower than the Division and Nation by 1970.

West Virginia possessed a more blue collar labor force than the Division or the United States, but generally seemed to be converging with these other two areas between 1950 and 1970. This also may be stated with respect to the comparison of industrial categories, although the State's percent of persons employed in mining was still considerably higher by 1970.

The number of children ever born increased in West Virginia and the United States between 1950 and 1970, while the child-woman ratio sharply declined between 1960 and 1970 in both the State and the Nation. Moreover, the differences between urban and rural populations with respect to both of these calculations were more pronounced in the State than in the Nation, with rural populations consistently reflecting the higher figures.

In summary, West Virginia generally appears to be converging with the Division and Nation in many respects, although its discordant figures concerning urbanization, education, and mining still stand out as glaring contrasts.